

Program Notes

Composer **Franz von Suppe** (1819 - 1895). His early musical training was in flute and singing. His parents pushed him to study law, but he continued his musical studies nonetheless. He eventually moved to Vienna to complete his studies and find work conducting in opera houses. He went on to compose over 100 works for the stage. *The Poet and the Peasant* is one of von Suppe's earlier operettas, written in 1846 when he was 27 years old. Like most of his work, the operetta itself is rarely performed. But the overture has become a classic at pops concerts for both bands and orchestras.

—————notes by Andy Pease

Piano Concerto No. 2 in F Major, Op. 102 by **Dmitri Shostakovich** (1906 - 1975) was composed in 1957 for his son Maxim's 19th birthday. Maxim premiered the piece during his graduation at the Moscow Conservatory. It is an uncharacteristically cheerful piece, much more so than most of Shostakovich's works. Despite the apparent simplistic nature of this concerto, the public has always regarded it warmly, and it stands as one of Shostakovich's most popular pieces. In 2017, the concerto was voted 19th in the "Classic FM Hall of Fame".

The *Flute Concerto in G Major, Op. 29* was written by Czech-German Composer, **Carl Stamitz** (1745 - 1801) in 1780. Though the structure of the concerto resembles the overall form of the Baroque concerto grosso, Stamitz includes new innovations in his work that allow the concerto to be viewed in a different light. As opposed to the Baroque trend of equal give and take between the orchestra and the soloist, the orchestra was now seen as solely the accompaniment.

—————notes from MUSC520 Musical Styles S14 Wiki

Violin Concerto No. 2 in D minor, Op. 22, by the Polish violin virtuoso **Henryk Wieniawski** (1835 - 1880), may have been started in 1856, but the first performance did not take place until November 27, 1862, when he played it in St. Petersburg with Anton Rubinstein conducting. It was published in 1879, inscribed to his "dear friend Pablo de Sarasate". This piece remains one of the greatest violin concertos of the Romantic era, memorable for its lush and moving melodies and harmonies

The *Cello Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major, Op. 107*, was composed in 1959 by **Dmitri Shostakovich**. He wrote the work for his friend, Mstislav Rostropovich, who committed it to memory in 4 days and gave the premiere on October 4, 1959, with the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra in The Large Hall of The Leningrad Conservatory. The first recording was made in 2 days following the premiere, by Rostropovich and the Moscow Philharmonic.

The *Concertino da Camera for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra* was written by **Jacques Ibert** (1890 - 1962) in 1935. Ibert dedicated the work to saxophone pioneer Sigurd Rascher, who premiered it in 1935. The concerto is distinctive for its large range requiring the use of the saxophone's top tones.

—————all notes are excerpted from Wikipedia unless otherwise stated.



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